WTCI-281-P

MEMORANDUM

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TO: F. H. Werneke
FROM: D. Herbstman
DATE: September 2, 1969
SUBJECT: SPRAY-ON FIREPROOFING OPERATIONS

REFERENCE:

COPY TO: D. Brown, C. Kilpatrick, A. Korma, F. Magrath, R. Monti

As indicated in my memorandum of August 28, 1969, Mr. M. Scheinbaum, Senior Industrial Hygiene Engineer with the New York State Labor Department, visited the construction site on August 29, 1969. The purpose of his visit was to determine whether a worker or public exposure exists as a result of the spray-on fireproofing operation conducted by the Mario and DiBono Contracting Company.

Mr. Scheinbaum and I inspected all aspects of the fireproofing operation including storage, handling, mixing, spraying and clean-up activities. The curtain installation on the north face of Tower A on the ninth floor was also examined.

The present operation conducted by Mario and DiBono at the World Trade construction site was typical of most spray-on fireproofing operations according to Mr. Scheinbaum. He also pointed out a number of problems and suggested means of protecting workers engaged in this operation as well as those that are working in the immediate area of fireproofing activities from the asbestos component of the fire proofing material. Mr. Scheinbaum felt that the worker exposure was the most serious potential problem and did not expect that heavy concentrations would be found beyond the construction site. He stated that he would handle the initial sampling surveys at the job site, and would then work with our staff to train Port Authority personnel in sampling techniques. He felt that he could provide the analysis of any samples taken to determine the level and type of free asbestos resulting from the fireproofing operations.

The following recommendations were based on observations made on August 29, 1969 by Mr. Scheinbaum:

A. Storage and Feeding of Fireproofing Material

1. Provide approved respirators for man on hopper.

2. Empty bags should be immediately placed in trash container.

B. Spraying Operations

1. Man on spray-nozzle should be equipped with an airline type respirator.

2. Helper should have approved type filter respirator.

3. Best method to eliminate overspray is to curtain off area where fireproofing is being applied from other work areas. Curtains

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should also be provided on perimeter of tower to keep material from floating off job site. The curtain installation on the ninth floor of Tower A looked as if it would be satisfactory. (Might consider having fireproofing activities done at night or on weekends to minimize worker and public exposure.)

C. Clean-up Activities

1. Important that clean-up activities begin while material is still wet. This will minimize the dust and pollution problem.

2. Men on clean-up detail should be equipped with approved filter type respirators.

D. General

1. A maintenance program fromthe respirators used on the job should be established. One person should be responsible for changing filter elements, cleaning, sanitizing, etc. all filters. The foreman should instruct all workers required to wear respirators in their use and see that men are using this equipment on the job.

2. Periodic sampling should be performed to see that the level of free asbestos is kept within acceptable limits both on the job and in adjacent public areas. (Sampling will be conducted by representatives of the New York State Labor Department in the near future.)

D. Herbstman
Safety Supervisor
The World Trade Center

DH/lm